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DASHNAKS DENY CHARGES OF USSR-ARMENIAN COLLABORATION

The following article was published by an Armenian Dashnak newspaper in response to allegations made by the Jerusalem Post in its 26 August 1951 edition concerning widespread Armenian affinity for Communism. The Jerusalem Post claimed that the Armenian Church, rallying point for Armenian Communists, has gained the support of the "vast majority of Armenians in the Diaspora," that the USSR has constantly supported Armenia's claims against its "arch enemy," the Turks; that many of the leading Communist personalities in the Middle East are of Armenian origin, and, finally, that the national aspirations of the Armenian people "coincide with Soviet imperial interests."

With deep regret, we read the article on Armenian affinity for Communism which appeared in the Jerusalem Post. It is an unfortunate fact that this article, despite its obvious exaggeration will inevitably result in misleading the majority of the Jerusalem Post's readers. Furthermore, it will be a cause for apprehension among the great majority of loyal, anti-Communist, thoroughly democratic Armenians who again may fear rejection by the very society whose way of life they are attempting to preserve.

There is, indeed, some truth in the article. It is precisely for this reason that the final exaggerated version represents a potential threat to the great effort exerted by the Armenian people to combat Communist propaganda. Certainly, there are Armenian Communists. But they are a very definite minority, just as the Communists are a definite minority in every nation throughout the world.

The Jerusalem Post is fully aware that the Catholicos of Echmiadzin /Primate of the Armenian Church/ is in reality a prisoner of the Soviet dictatorship. He is totally subservient to the will of the Communist Party.

The editors of the Jerusalem Post know that the former Catholicos, Khoren, was strangled to death by the Cheka on 6 April 1938. And they know that Echmiadzin cannot be the political center of the Armenian Communist movement because the Bolsheviks have wrested all forms of power from the Catholicate, as they have mutilated every national church within the sphere of Soviet domination.

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Contrary to the assertion made by the Jerusalem Post, Moscow has aided not the Armenian people, but Turkey. The two treaties between the USSR and Turkey, signed in 1921, were agreements to partition Armenia, not to guarantee its integrity.

Thus, the great majority of the Armenian people, far from looking toward Moscow as the champion of its rights, places its hopes on the destruction of Bolshevik power. Communism could never find a more bitter foe than the Armenian people. There is no necessity for this sweeping denunciation of the Armenian people, whose basic rights have yet to be respected.

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